



COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC ASIAN THEOLOGY (CPAT)

***PACIFIC ASIAN VISION***

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**WOMEN'S MARCH 2022**

**Protect Roe & Abortion Rights**

**May 14th in Washington DC  
and Nationwide**

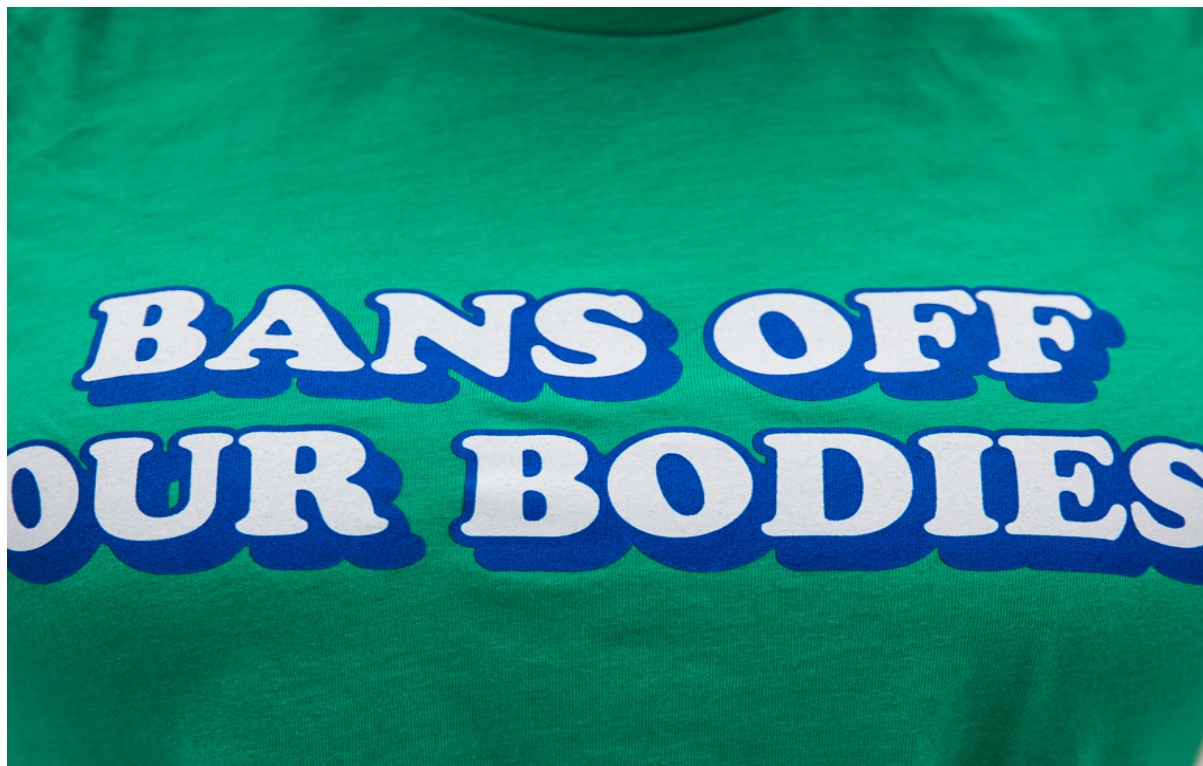




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Mr. Bill Watanabe

## *COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC ASIAN THEOLOGY*

*Proudly Presents*

# *Mr. Bill Watanabe*

## *“The 2022 Annual Rev. Dr. Paul M. Nagano Peace and Justice Award”*

*The Annual Award is \$3,000.*

*Mr. Bill Watanabe fulfills the values, vision, and goals of CPAT by allowing God to work through his life for over 30 years at the Little Tokyo Service Center.*

*Through Bill's leadership:*

- \* Established the Little Tokyo Service Center in June 1979 as Executive Director.*
- \* Created the Escort Project providing transportation and translation for non-English speaking seniors.*
- \* Successfully negotiated \$3 million in key grants from City and State to renovate 42 low-income studio units at the San Pedro Firm Building by 1991.*



*\*Constructed Casa Heiwa, a \$16 million project in 1996, the first family housing built in Little Tokyo in over 70 years. It provided one hundred units of low-income senior and family housing.*

*\*Renovation of the old Union Church, renamed the Union Center for the Arts, counteracted the LA Riots of 1992, and gained federal renovation funds through the 1994 Northridge earthquake (6.8 scale). It provided 233 seats for the East West Players, the nation's premier Asian American theatre. Over \$4 million was raised for its completion in 1998.*

*\*Held the Tofu Festival from 1996-2007, in later years in a parking lot next to Casa Heiwa and also on San Pedro Street. Over 20,000 people enjoyed the festival every year. Popular fusion jazz band Hiroshima and Ozomatli put on major concerts -- food and music only \$8! The Tofu Festival was a factor in the revival of Little Tokyo after the disastrous LA Riots of 1992. It was even featured on Huell Howser's California's Gold T.V. program for PBS.*

*\*Asians for Miracle Marrow Matches has recruited over 150,000 potential bone marrow donors. By 2009 A3M accounted for over 230 bone marrow transplants. By genetic make-up Asian patients can hope for bone marrow matches only from other Asian donors. Bill Watanabe and LTSC sponsor the A3M.*

*\*Terasaki Budokan Gymnasium. During the war, Japanese residents were removed to distant concentration camps. They later returned not to Little Tokyo, but to the suburbs of West Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, San Gabriel Valley, and South Bay. Bill had a dream of a large gym to attract the Japanese basketball, judo, and other sports leagues to revitalize Little Tokyo.*

*To make a very long story short, that dream of decades became reality on March 12, 2022, with the grand opening of the Terasaki Budokan Gymnasium. It was large enough to hold 4 basketball courts. It was the fruit of hundreds of supporters and Los Angeles Council member, Jan Perry. But insiders knew that at bottom, it was the vision and persistence of Bill Watanabe and the invisible workings of his God.*

*Council for Pacific Asian Theology Board of Trustees*



## LOSING A WIFE

Dickson K. Yagi

I was **blind-sided** by grief when my wife died. The first year was severe, awful depression. The second and third years were better, but still terrible. It took three full years before I came out of that dark tunnel.

Blind-sided means that my U.S. culture, church, and 10 years of seminary did not prepare me for these deep, unpredictable, wild currents of grief.

I received monthly grief counseling from an experienced therapist. After my six sessions of monthly grief counseling, the husband of the therapist suddenly died. The therapist descended into extreme anger. She had to leave our retirement community as her face expressed total anger 24/7. All her grief counseling was book knowledge. The real experience overwhelmed her completely.

Most ministers preaching in the pulpit have no experience of their spouse dying. It usually is 10 years after retirement that their spouse dies. So, congregations have not been hearing sermons about grief of losing a spouse. When their time comes, they are **blindsided** by the length and unpredictable currents of grief.

Most think they are facing weeks or a month of grief--**not three years!** Some do not survive the death of their spouse--dying of a broken heart within the year. The peculiar grief current is unique for each person. Hang on for a long, wild ride! But God is good. Humpty Dumpty will be put back together again if we hold tight and hang on for the duration.

Also, I survived because Tom Ambrogi, a former Catholic priest, prayed for me every day for 3 years. He reminded me each week that he was still praying. It has been 12 years now, but my eyes moisten every time I think of Tom praying every day for me--for three full years! An amazing, unforgettable, friend now departed to the next world.

*Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi*





## EYES ON UKRAINE

**Major Lester Yagi**

**U.S. Air Force, retired**

### Proxy Wars

A proxy war is defined as a war instigated by a major power which does not itself become involved. By that definition, NATO has been involved in a proxy war since 2014 when Russia invaded and occupied Crimea. From the Russian perspective, NATO "instigated" the war by allowing former Soviet bloc countries to join NATO, thus putting an armed alliance on their border.

It's not possible to judge very well the ethics or morality of proxy wars. A better way is to judge is to determine the **objective** each side has for fighting. Objective is the most important principle of war because it's a statement of why we're fighting and what we're trying to achieve.

You can guess on the objectives by observing the actions of the countries involved, knowing their history, assessing the behavior of their leaders, and the esprit and abilities of their military. Based on these factors, this is what I think the objectives are.

**Russia:** To conquer Ukraine, make it part of Russia, and use its resources to increase Russian political and economic power. Success would mean an opportunity to take over other former Soviet bloc countries such as Poland and Lithuania.

**Rationale:** If Russia had justification to fear having NATO on its border, they should've been able to convince their own people. Instead, they shut down independent media and made it a crime to speak out against the war. Also, the morale of their military is low, an indication of widespread doubt the war is justified and worth risking their lives. Finally, Finland and Sweden applied for NATO membership. They would never do that if they thought Russia was responding to NATO aggression.

**Ukraine:** To preserve their independence, no matter what the cost.

**Rationale:** The Ukrainians have shown not only incredible fighting spirit, but also the ability to outmaneuver and defeat a military that's larger, better equipped, and supposedly superior. They're clearly outraged at being invaded and are willing to defend every inch of their country with their lives.

**NATO:** To support Ukraine by providing humanitarian, financial, and military aid while at the same time avoiding escalation beyond Ukraine's borders as well as Russian use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

**Rationale:** President Biden explicitly said NATO will not engage directly against Russian forces. That's why NATO refused a **no-fly zone**. At the beginning of the war, NATO limited support to defensive type weapons like antitank rockets. Now that Ukraine is so successful and the terrain warrants it, NATO is sending weapons that are more **offensive** like artillery, armored vehicles, and advanced air defense systems.

### Avoiding Use of WMD

I think the best way to avoid use of WMD is for all sides never to stop talking and never to stop seeking a negotiated settlement. The best deal is the **one everybody hates**. Putin may have to concede he'll never annex Ukraine, and Zelensky may have to give up Crimea or even the Donbas.

**Negotiations** also threaten Putin's hold on power. Lines of communication means sharing information which means more people are involved. This could help convince the oligarchs, if not Putin himself, he will never be able to conquer Ukraine. Our Secretary of Defense finally spoke to his Russian counterpart. Hopefully more to come.

In the end, preventing use of WMD is mostly in the hands of the Ukrainians. As long as they continue to show courage and competence in the battlefield, Russia's options are limited. Their choices are to negotiate or use WMD. And if they use WMD against a nation that has the admiration of the world, Putin risks **global sanctions** that will destroy his economy.

### China?

China is unlikely to help Putin because he's shown he lacks the ability to wage war in a competent way. But mostly, China would face blowback from the European Union and the US who are its biggest trading partners.

I think a far more dangerous possibility is if **China invades Taiwan**. If that happens, the US will intervene directly which means two nuclear powers will engage in direct combat.

If you want to see how such a war may play out check out the following:

**War Games, the Battle for Taiwan.** (eye-opening video) <https://youtu.be/qYfvm-JLhPQ>



This is a chilling possibility. Since China knows the US and other Asian nations will go to war directly with them, China might **preemptively strike** at US bases in **Guam, Japan, and Hawaii**.

China is closely watching events in Ukraine. I'm sure it's a deterrence as they see how quickly nations united against Russia. The fierce Ukrainian resistance will be matched by Taiwan if they're attacked. They might note the **poor morale** of Russian troops and worry if their troops will react in the same way.

But the Chinese are likely far more competent and their equipment more reliable. Also, Taiwan is only about 6% the size of Ukraine, so it's likely a massive, well-run invasion could rapidly overrun Taiwanese defenses.

But as in Ukraine, both sides should **never stop talking** and negotiating BEFORE there's a war. Because in this case, once it starts, it's possible they'll be massive damage not just in Taiwan, but in sovereign US and Chinese territories. May 17, 2022

**What do you think?**

**Major Lester Yagi, U.S. Air Force, retired.**

Lester Yagi is from Hilo, HI (Big Island). He graduated with a BA in Mathematics at Univ. of Hawaii (1976). He earned an MS in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology (1988).

He served 20 years as a Major in the U.S. Air Force from 1976 to 1996. After retirement he was employed by the State of Hawaii for 12 years, helping the needy applying for welfare assistance. He retired in 2015 in Hawi, HI (Big Island, North Kohala).

He is Dickson Yagi's cousin.

Major Yagi can be reached at: [lesyagi@gmail.com](mailto:lesyagi@gmail.com)

## EYES ON THE NEWSPAPER AND THE BIBLE

\*Shooting at **Irvine Taiwanese Presbyterian Church**, Laguna Woods, Orange County, Los Angeles. David Wenwei Cho of Las Vegas killed one person, injured five in mass shooting. He had Taiwanese passport and had completed Taiwan military service. But he now believed that Taiwan should not be independent from China. This church had many Taiwanese speaking elders. LATimes 5/17/22, Hannah Fry, Richard Winton, Jeong Park, Luke Money.

\***Sri Lanka**: Ranil Wickremesinghe is the new prime minister of Sri Lanka. The ruling Rajapaksa family dynasty had brought economic collapse worse than the three-decade-long civil war that ended in 2009. Key Rajapaksa officials are in hiding in a military base. The island nation is in desperate need of gasoline. NYTimes, Mujib Mashal, 5/17/22. The cruel 30-year civil war was majority Sinhalese Buddhists defeating minority Tamil Hindus. The social message of Buddhism in India is liberation from the caste system. But sadly the Sinhalese Buddhist majority in Sri Lanka maintains the caste system.



From left, Mahinda Rajapaksa, Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Basil Rajapaksa in 2018. The family has dominated Sri Lanka for the better part of two decades. Eranga Jayawardena/Associated Press

\*Both **Finland and Sweden** are applying for NATO membership. Turkey is in opposition.

\* **\$40 billion approved by U.S. Senate** for military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

\***1,700 Ukrainian troops** holding out in Mariupol Azovstal Steel Plant surrendered to Russian troops, taken custody to Russian controlled Ukrainian territory.



Members of the Azov brigade line up for a funeral for two of their fellow soldiers in the courtyard of Kharkiv Regional Hospital.

\***Buffalo, NY. May 14, 2022 massacre.** Ten people were killed and three more wounded during a mass shooting at the Jefferson Avenue, Tops Grocery Store. This is the only supermarket in this black community. The white supremacist shooter chose this target after weeks of research.



\*The US Women's Soccer Team won their **6-year fight for equal pay** to the men's team. The women had won the last two Women's World Cups and four overall.



The United States women won a World Cup championship and an Olympic bronze medal during their six-year fight for equal pay. Doug Mills/The New York Times

\*San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone has barred House Speaker Nancy Pelosi from communion over her abortion stance. NYTimes, By [Annie Karni](#) and [Ruth Graham](#) 5/20/22

\*The White House celebrated the **Buddhist Vesak**, birth of Buddha, for the second year.

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*May Jesus Christ think through our minds,  
May Jesus Christ see through our eyes,  
May Jesus Christ hear through our ears,  
May Jesus Christ breathe through our nostrils,  
May Jesus Christ live in this world once again  
through our hands and feet,  
Amen!*

## Some Core Values of CPAT

### Black Lives Matter

**Reform Police Brutality.** (No choke holds, forbid no knock entries, no quasi police immunity, nat'l data base so convicted police cannot be hired in the next city, no shootings without body cameras, no rubber bullets, no political donations by police unions, no private prisons, social worker specialists to replace police dealing with homeless and mentally ill, no bicycle stops escalating to pointless killings.

### Protecting Mother Earth, our only Spaceship

Keep the oil in the ground.  
Stop Minnesota portion of Enbridge Line 3, Biden fail to stop.  
Protect the Arctic Sanctuary from oil and gas drilling.  
Protect National Parks and Monuments (Biden reverses Trump opening Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante to oil drilling, fracking, and mining,

### Gender Equality

Equality for LGBTQ. (Supreme Court ruled LGBTQ cannot be fired from work for being gay. Biden renews LGBTQ in military)  
Equal pay for equal work.

### Citizenship for DACA. (Biden stopped DACA deportation).

### America's Original Sins:

Stealing land from Native Americans by betraying treaties and by genocide.  
National economy built on 400 years of Black slave labor and Jim Crow.  
Trans-continental railway built on blood, sweat, and tears of Chinese laborers.

### Big Pharma: Drug prices negotiated down.

### Destroy Ghost Guns.

### No Separation of Children from Refugee Parents on Southern Border.

### Racial Equality: No White Supremacy

No racial profiling by police stop-and-search (vs. Afro-Americans).  
No infiltration of mosques by FBI, CIA, Homeland Security.  
No mass incarceration of Afro-Americans through unfair drug laws. (Rehabilitation instead of incarceration, fix drug laws.)

### Freedom of Religion

Freedom for Uyghur Muslims in Xinjian Province.  
Freedom for Tibetans in religion and politics.  
Freedom for Rohingyas in Rakhine Province in Myanmar.

### Religions waging peace, instead of war.

Preemptive strikes as crimes against humanity. (Iraq invasion)  
Nuclear Weapons, Biological Weapons, Chemical Weapons,  
Neutron Bombs as Crimes Against Humanity. (Syria)  
Disarmament of nuclear weapons (No More Hiroshima-Nagasaki)  
Religions networking for social justice in major cities (Jews, Muslims, Christians. Buddhists, and Hindus Together).

### Priority of the Poor. (Safety nets for the poor and vulnerable, Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, food banks, health insurance for all, \$15 minimum wage)

### Vaccines: Israel must provide Coronavirus vaccines to Palestinians in Gaza Strip. Rich Western nations must share vaccines with African nations, Pacific Islanders, and Palestinians

### GITMO: Close down Guantanamo Detention Center.

### Free Assange as Whistle Blower.

### Prohibit Civilian Assault Weapons.

Anyone wishing to donate may use this address:

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Anyone wishing to receive mailings of  
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